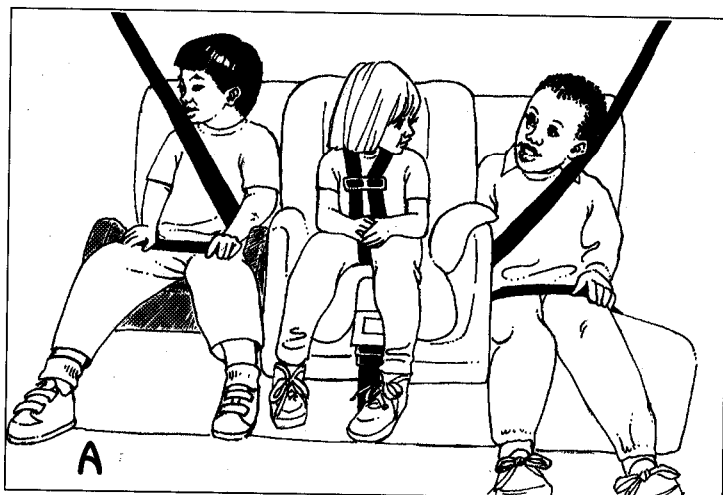


# Tip #2

## where should your child ride?



The back seat is safer than the front. The center belt often works best for a safety seat. Older children should use booster seats with lap/shoulder belts for best protection until about age 7-8. Some booster seats go to 100 lbs.



Always read the car owner's guide for advice on installing safety seats.

**Everybody needs a safety belt or safety seat!**

### Basic Safety Facts to Remember:

- Everybody needs a safety belt or safety seat!
- Anyone who rides loose can hurt those who are buckled up by being thrown against them. People riding without belts or safety seats can be hurled out of the car and seriously hurt.
- The back seat usually is safer than the front, because head-on crashes are the most common kind (A).
- There must be one belt for each person. Buckling two people, even children, into one belt could injure both. Each child safety seat needs a safety belt to hold it in place.
- If no shoulder belt is available, it's much safer for anyone (except small babies who can't sit up) to use just a lap belt than to ride loose. Keep the lap belt low and snug across the thighs. Other options should be pursued, i.e., having shoulder belts installed or using harness/vest devices for children.
- Children who have outgrown safety seats are better protected by lap/shoulder belts than by lap belts alone. So if several children are riding in back, and there are shoulder belts there, let the older ones use the shoulder belts. Put the child riding in the car seat in the middle where there is only a lap belt (A).
- Infants must ride facing the rear of the car. In this position, the safety seat cushions the head and back.
- Infants must ride facing the rear of the car, even if they are out of the driver's view in the back seat. Parents should feel just as comfortable in this situation as they do when they put their babies down for a nap and leave the room. If a baby has special health needs that require full-time monitoring, ask another adult to ride with the baby in the back seat and travel alone as little as possible.
- Always read the instructions that come with the safety seat. Also read the section on safety belts and child seat installation in your vehicle owners manual (B).

### Does your car have an air bag for the front passenger seat?

An infant or child could be seriously injured or killed by an inflating air bag. See the other side for details.